



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Building on Momentum: A Proposal for Ward 6 Middle Schools

Wednesday, May 19, 2010  
Payne Elementary School  
5 – 7 PM



# Tonight's Agenda

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Goals: Present draft plan and solicit feedback and reactions.

- I. Guiding Principles
  - II. Update on Planning Process
  - III. Overview of Draft Plan
    - I. Baseline of Rigor
    - II. School Specific
  - IV. Break-Out Groups
  - V. Next Steps
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# Guiding Principles for School Planning

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- ❖ Commitment to support and strengthen current middle school programs
- ❖ Embrace diversity in our schools as a key strength
- ❖ With the proper support, any school can become high-performing

## Planning Objectives

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- Identify key components of a quality middle school (academic rigor, school culture, grade configuration, and vertical alignment)
- Identify critical levers of change for increased student achievement
- Align programs across Eastern feeder pattern
- Support and strengthen Jefferson, Eliot-Hine and Stuart-Hobson middle schools

Deliverable: Draft plan that identifies short and long term strategies to support and strengthen Ward 6 middle schools. The draft plan will also include a proposed timeline for implementation that will span over the next few years.

# Academic Rigor in Middle Schools: Highlights

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**Challenging coursework that prepares students to succeed in college-preparatory high school work (aligned to university entrance expectations across all content areas)**

- Recognition of Algebra as Gateway Course
- Emphasis on World Language as a Core Course

**Meeting students where they are – and moving them forward**

- Using assessments to place students in appropriate math courses beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Leveraging elementary school world language experience (e.g., Spanish humanities course offering)
- Targeted supports for students who are below grade level to quickly get them back on track
- Advanced course offerings for students who are ready

**Effective, engaging instruction for all students**

## End State: What Does Academic Rigor Look Like

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- Differentiated math pathways, with an eye to college success
  - Standard pathway includes Pre-Algebra in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Advanced pathway: Pre-Algebra (6<sup>th</sup>), Algebra (7<sup>th</sup>) and Geometry (8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Students who enter 6<sup>th</sup> grade needing extra support reach pre-algebra by 8<sup>th</sup>
- World language as full course beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - One year of high school credit by end of middle school
- Breadth of Offerings
  - Where enrollment can support it (>600), offer more than one language option
  - Leverage high quality on-line courses to expand offerings (e.g., additional language options, advanced math)
  - Partner with other schools in order to maximize resources, access a wider variety of extra-curricular programs
  - Creative scheduling, where middle school students can access courses at Eastern High School

# Jefferson Middle School

- ⇒ Fresh start for Jefferson, with the launch of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade academy under new leadership
- ⇒ International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB – MYP)
- ⇒ Chinese language instruction that builds on Thomson and Brent’s current programs

## School Year 2010-2011

## School Year 2011-2012

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Planning year for 6<sup>th</sup> grade academy               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Search/Hire leader</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Targeted Recruitment Effort for New 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Cohort               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Citywide marketing effort</li> <li>— Focused feeder school information campaign</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Feeder School Transition /Collaboration Teams               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Planning across schools among school leaders/teachers/parents</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ IB mentorship with Deal MS               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—Exposure to high functioning middle years IB program</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Launch 6<sup>th</sup> grade Academy               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—New leader</li> <li>—Cohort of 100 new students</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Separate 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program</li> <li>■ Expand Collaboration Team to include Eastern HS</li> <li>■ Launch Chinese Language Offering</li> <li>■ Begin IB Middle Years Program (multi-year accreditation process)</li> </ul> |
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### Other Highlights

- Museum Studies Partnership
- Technology course offering, leveraging OCTO Partnership
- Full range of after-school extra-curricular offerings
- Comprehensive special education services

# Eliot-Hine Middle School

- ⇒ International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB – MYP)
- ⇒ Spanish language instruction that builds on Tyler and Miner’s current programs
- ⇒ Comprehensive services that builds on Tyler and Payne’s special education programs

## School Year 2010-2011

## School Year 2011-2012

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Begin IB Middle Years Program</li><li>• Feeder School Transition /Collaboration Teams<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>—Planning across schools among school leaders/teachers/parents</li></ul></li><li>▪ Continued services to special education cluster students</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Expand Transition Team to include Eastern HS</li><li>▪ Launch Spanish language offering</li></ul> |
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Other Highlights

- Full range of after-school extra-curricular offerings
- Access to DC Youth Orchestra Program at Eastern HS
- Second foreign language option
- Comprehensive special education services



# Stuart-Hobson Middle School

- ⇒ Leverage Cluster model to build strong Eastern feeder
- ⇒ Partner with Eastern High School to broaden course offerings
- ⇒ 6 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade configuration

## School Year 2010-2011

- Feeder School Transition /Collaboration Teams
  - Planning across schools among school leaders/teachers/parents
- School Improvement Team to address immediate needs and refine scope of Phase 1 modernization (already begun)

## School Year 2011-2012

- Expand Transition Team to include Eastern HS
- Offer second language (online, partnership with Eastern)
- Move Montessori program to new building
- Move 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Watkins
  - Following Montessori move
- Change Ludlow-Taylor feeder pattern to Stuart-Hobson
  - Following move of 5<sup>th</sup> grade out of Stuart-Hobson

### Other Highlights

- Museum Studies Partnership
- Full range of after-school extra-curricular offerings
- Comprehensive special education services

# Break-Out Groups

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1. International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program
  - What is it?
  - What does this mean for middle school?
2. Montessori Proposal
  - Grade configuration Options
  - Facility Options
3. General Q& A About Proposed Plan

## Next Steps

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- Solicit feedback on draft plan from broader parent community
  - Targeted outreach at individual schools
  - On-line outreach
- Revise plan, based on feedback
- Finalize plan by the end of June 2010
- Visit the *Building on Momentum* webpage!
  - Page found in Parents and Community section, under Community Initiatives